

Phaceloid Corals

Family Caryophyllidae

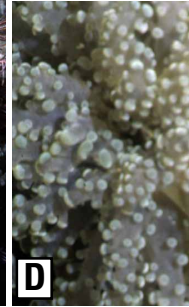
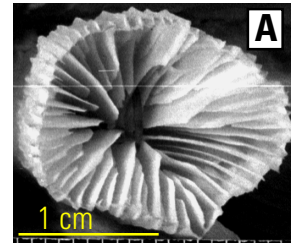
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Euphyllia

■ common name: Anchor or Hammer Coral (9 species)

■ colonies phaceloid, flabellate or flabello-meandroid

A) septa prominent, with smooth edges
C-E) polyps extended day and night;
tentacles tubular with anchor,
bulbous or t-shaped tips



Plerogya

■ common name: Bubble Coral or Grape Coral (3 species)

■ colonies phaceloid or flabellate



F) septa large, exsert, smooth-edged

F, H) corallite > 15 mm diameter

G, H) vesicles, 5-20 mm diameter, cover colony during day

Family Faviidae

Caulastrea

■ common name: Trumpet Coral (4 species)

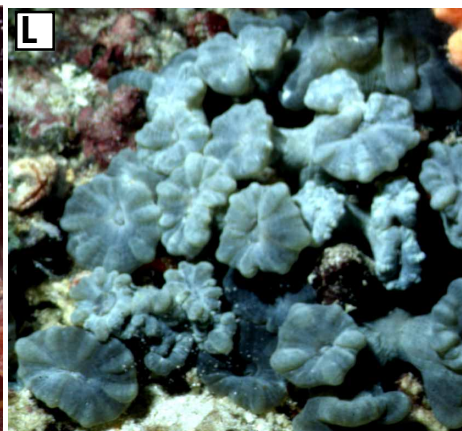
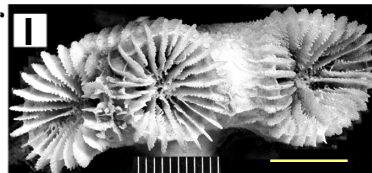
■ corallites elliptical to irregular, each with 1-3 mouth
corallites 8-20 mm diameter

I-M) colonies phaceloid

I, J) fine septa, exsert and irregular

M) white, radiating stripes outline septa

L, M) well-developed columella



Simplified key to coral genera in the wildlife trade (continued)

17. Coral colony with more than one corallite: **Go To:**
- a. corallites consisting of a series of calices isolated from each other in upper part of corallum; colonies appear stalked (colony phaceloid) 18
 - b. colony massive, plating or branching; individual corallites are not stalked 19
18. Phaceloid colony growth form with:
- a. corallites round, septa thin and closely spaced with smooth margins *Euphyllia* page 21
 - b. corallites round to oval; septa thick, widely spaced and exsert, septa with smooth margins; large, bulbous vesicles expanded in day *Plerogyra* page 30
 - c. corallites irregular, 1-3 mouths, toothed septal margins; pale stripes follow contours of septa; expanded polyps look like the horn of a trumpet *Caulastrea* page 30
 - d. corallites irregular, larger than other phaceloid species (15-50 mm); 1-3 mouths; septa large, form jagged, sharp, toothed margin, corallite may have fleshy margin that obscures individual corallites *Lobophyllia*
 - e. corallites small (5-15 mm), circular or oval, raised 1-2 cm from coenosteum; live colonies have large, fleshy mantle with a swollen appearance *Blastomussa*

Lobophyllia (1999: 25,000 pieces in trade, over 24,000 live)

- “Lobed Brain Corals” are phaceloid to sub-meandroid;
- large, irregular, sharp-edged corallites over 15 mm in diameter
- corallites are outlined by a prominent fleshy lobe of tissue; this is retracted if disturbed
- corallites have a bumpy appearance due to the large, toothed septa
- skeleton of one species is permanently stained orange-red color (F)

Blastomussa (1999: 5,640 pieces in trade, most live)

- circular or oval corallites adjoined at their bases, but raised 1-2 cm
- corallites less than 15 mm in diameter; septa gently sloping with small teeth
- may develop long tubular polyps that separate to form new colonies
- colonies dark red or brown with green centers
- colonies often consist of only a few polyps and are often <10 cm
- polyps fleshy and completely hide the skeleton unless disturbed

Caulastrea



Lobophyllia



Symphyllia

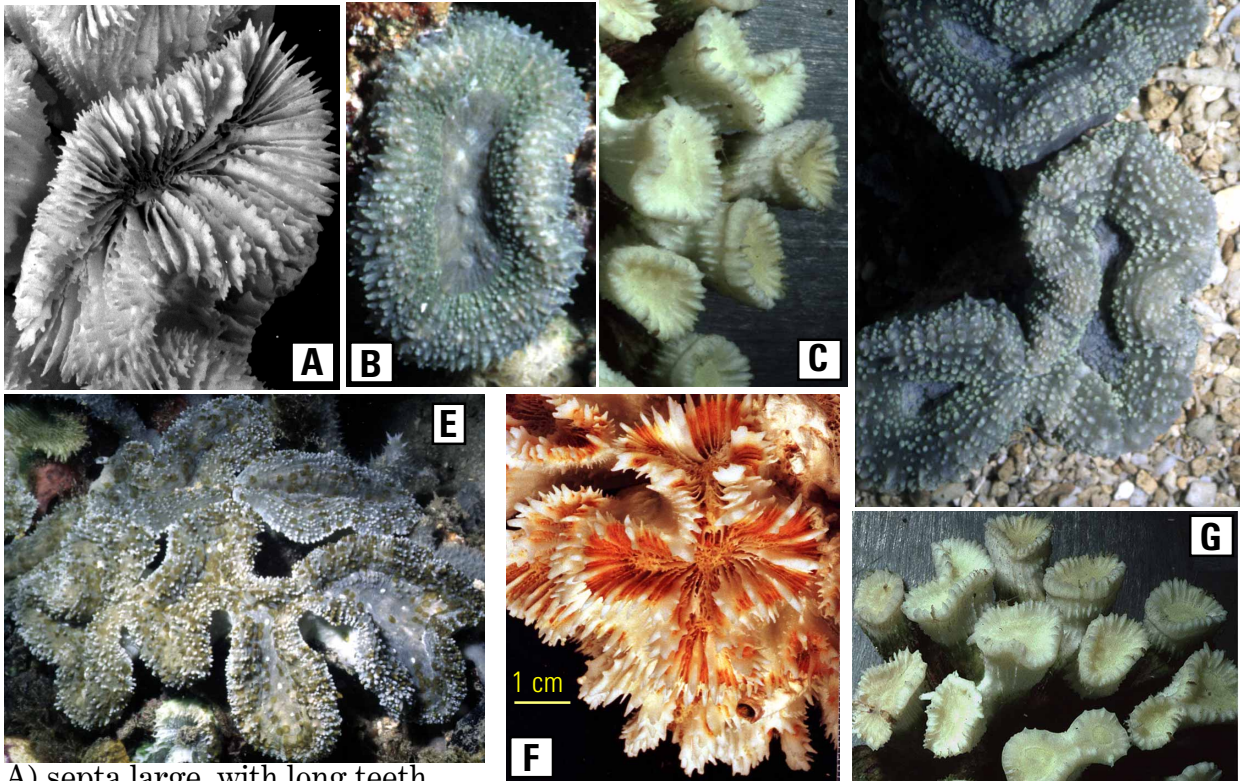


Family Mussidae

Lobophyllia

■ common name: Lobed Brain Coral

■ colonies phaceloid or meandroid



A) septa large, with long teeth

B) corallites over 15 mm diameter

B-D) each corallite with 1-3 mouths

E) polyps fleshy, tentacles extend at night

F) skeleton stained orange in one species

Blastomussa

■ common name: Pineapple Coral

■ colonies phaceloid

H) polyps fleshy and highly expansive
expanded polyps obscure skeleton

I) septa are toothed

J-L) corallites appear jagged, and are
raised a few mm above the coenosteum

